

my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Currently, Stephen is attending the University of St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, where he studies modern history. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stephen for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CHARLES D. HODGES

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize South Carolina native, Maj. Charles D. Hodges for his exceptional service and bravery in his recent military support efforts in the Thailand cave rescues. Major Hodges is a U.S. mission commander for the Air Force's 353rd Special Operations unit and led his team of U.S. support in rescuing 12 young Thai boys and their coach trapped in a network of caves. With his support and the hard work and bravery of so many military personnel, all 13 were all rescued safely on Tuesday.

South Carolina and I are very proud to call Major Hodges one of our own.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN WALTERS

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Dan Walters of Greenwood, SC, for his dedication and willingness to provide children without families a home of love and support for over 15 years and congratulate him on receiving the 2018 Angels in Adoption award.

Mr. Walters has truly opened up his heart and home through his exceptional service for children in the foster care system. Since entering the foster care program, Mr. Walters has fostered 15 children, provided long-term care for three children, and also adopted one child. I had the pleasure of working with one of those children through my internship program, and he credits Mr. Walters for giving him a "second chance at life." He truly has made an incredible difference in the lives of many foster youth.

Aside from being a foster parent, Mr. Walters is also an engaged member of the community as a businessowner, active Rotarian, and deacon at Connie Maxwell Baptist Church.

Mr. Walters is an outstanding example of a foster parent, and I applaud him on his continued commitment and compassion towards helping foster care children. He truly has been an "angel in adoption," and I congratulate him on this special recognition.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN CESCHINI

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an outstanding edu-

cator from the State of Maryland. John Ceschini has been an extraordinary leader in the area of arts education. His work has, in short, transformed this field and the lives of countless students.

For the last 4 years, Mr. Ceschini was the arts integration officer for Prince George's County schools. During that time, he played an integral role in the expansion of the arts integration program, which is now the largest in the country.

Previously, Mr. Ceschini was the executive director of education in the Maryland Schools Alliance. In 2011, he received the National Arts Education Association's Distinguished Service Award, and in 2010, he received the Innovator of the Year Award from the "Daily Record" for his efforts to support and expand the arts integration initiative across Maryland.

Mr. Ceschini served as principal of two elementary schools that developed nationally recognized arts integration programs under his leadership. One of those schools, Kensington Parkwood Elementary School in Kensington, MD, was the 2007 recipient of the Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction Award. In 2006, the school received the New and Emerging Art School Award from the International Network of Schools for the Advancement of Arts Education. Before that, Mr. Ceschini served as principal of Rockledge Elementary School in Bowie, a Maryland Blue Ribbon school that received national recognition for its arts program. In fact, Harvard University included Rockledge in its "Why Arts Survive" research and named the program as one of eight promising arts schools in the Nation.

Mr. Ceschini was one of four educators across the Nation who received the BRAVO Network National Arts Education award for his commitment to arts education. His other awards included the Washington Post Outstanding Educational Leader Award, the Prince George's Arts Council ABE Award for outstanding elementary arts program, the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Administrator Award, and the Bowie Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Ceschini has been an advocate for arts education across the world and has demonstrated how the arts can play an essential role in any school curriculum. There can be no doubt that he is one of our country's most effective leaders in arts education. Now, as he begins his well-earned retirement, I call upon my colleagues to join me in congratulating and expressing our appreciation to John Ceschini on his outstanding service.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2779. An act to amend the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5535. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 regarding energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5693. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, to establish the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend the interest rate for certain loans guaranteed under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5754. An act to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5864. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6199. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include certain over-the-counter medical products as qualified medical expenses.

H.R. 6311. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to modify the definition of qualified health plan for purposes of the health insurance premium tax credit and to allow individuals purchasing health insurance in the individual market to purchase a lower premium copper plan.

H.R. 6414. An act to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the deadline for promulgation of regulations under the tribal transportation self-governance program.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 756. An act to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 770. An act to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate resources to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes.

At 12:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.